

LUKAS, NACE, GUTIERREZ & SACHS

CHARTERED

1650 TYSONS BOULEVARD

SUITE 1500

McLEAN, VIRGINIA 22102

DAVID A. LaFURIA
(703) 584-8666

January 21, 2005

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

On Tuesday, January 18, 2005, undersigned counsel, on behalf of Highland Cellular, Inc. ("Highland"), Rural Cellular Corporation ("RCC") and the Alliance of Rural CMRS Carriers ("ARC"), met with Lisa Gelb, Narda Jones, Gina Spade and Thomas Buckley in the Wireline Competition Bureau, to discuss the Commission's upcoming action in the above-referenced docket and petitions for service area redefinition that have been pending before the agency for as long as two years.

On behalf of Highland, counsel requested the Commission to take no action on the West Virginia Public Service Commission's petition for redefinition of service areas, as it was unopposed and the ILEC at issue had disaggregated its support so as to obviate the possibility of uneconomic support being provided to competitors.

On behalf of RCC and ARC, counsel also urged the Commission to dispose of a number of service area redefinition cases under the rules in effect at the time the petitions were filed with the agency at the earliest possible date.

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If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,

/s/

David A. LaFuria

cc: Lisa Gelb, Esq.
Narda Jones, Esq.
Gina Spade, Esq.
Thomas Buckley, Esq.